

How to Treat Rex Begonia.

771. SIR,—I have some Rex Begonia five years old. They did well for four years, but after that they lost the leaves, and almost stopped to grow. What is the best way to treat them and what soil is the best?

JUSTUS ROEDLER, *Milton, Ont.*

Answered by H. L. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph.

It is not advisable to try and keep Rex Begonias after they are three or four years old. Propagate new plants from leaf-cuttings, and have enough of these coming on every year to take the place of the old ones. The begonia thrives best in a soil in which there is good admixture of leaf-mould and sand.

✱ Open Letters. ✱

Strawberries in November.

SIR,—At the meeting held November 30th, to consider the feasibility of organizing a horticultural society, Mr. C. Curtis, a noted grower of strawberries in this town, exhibited a small box of strawberries which had been gathered in his garden on the previous afternoon. The berries were Wilson Albany, of fair size and in good condition. This speaks well for this locality as a fruit growing district. The berries were grown in the open air without protection.

THOS. BEALL, *Leamington.*

A New Pear.

SIR,—I wish to bring before your notice a new pear. Seeds were planted twenty years ago and when they were large enough they were grafted, but one of those not grafted turned out to be the finest pear we ever saw. Two fruit growers who saw it said the flavor is the very best, and think it ought to be introduced. Probably I will send you a sample next season. I think it originated from the seed of either Flemish Beauty or Bartlett. It resembles the former somewhat in shape, but is longer and a trifle more watery. It ripens about the 20th of September. The color on one cheek is deep red and shades out to a rich yellow on the other side. We have no better pear for cooking.

W. H. SHOUR, *Cheapside.*

Our Plant Distribution for 1896.

SIR,—With regard to your next distribution of trees and plants, I will discuss the subject with Mr. Craig, but I doubt if we shall have anything in quantity this year which would be of value to you. We have some young cotoneasters, such as *Acutifolia* and *Vulgaris*, but they are only one year old seedlings, and would, I fear, be too small. They would, however, come in another year. We have a few *Acer glabrum* from British Columbia, but could not spare more than 25 or 50. We might also spare you 50 to 75 *Picea pungens*. We could let you have 100 to 150 of a dense form of *Rhamnus frangula*, if you thought that was sufficiently ornamental. We have grown them for hedge purposes, and the plants we have are strong two year seedlings. We could also spare 100 plants of *Bignonia radicans* raised from seed ripened at Windsor, Ont. I expect these seedlings